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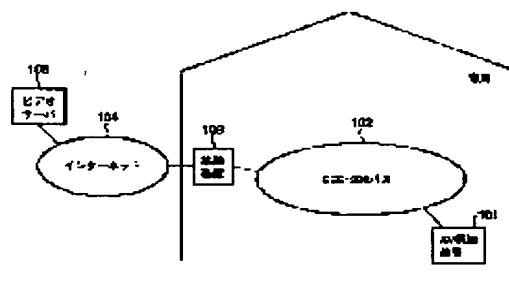
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(54) SERVICE PROVIDING METHOD AND COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide a communication equipment capable of providing service through networks having respective different protocols.

SOLUTION: The communication equipment 103 connected to 1st and 2nd networks 104, 102 and capable of providing service from a server 105 on the 1st network 104 to a terminal equipment 101 on the 2nd network 102 collects server attribute information including service to be provided by the server 105 from the server 105, stores the collected information in a storage means, provides the attribute information stored in the storage means to an optional terminal equipment 101 on the 2nd network 102 in accordance with a protocol depending upon the 2nd network 102, and requests the service selected based on the provided attribute information to the server 105 to provide the service to the service requesting source terminal equipment 101 on the 2nd network 102.



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[Claims]

[Claim 1] A service provision method of providing a service from a server on a first network to a terminal device on a second network, said method comprising:

collecting, from the server on the first network, attribute information of the server including a service provided by the server, and storing the attribute information into a storing unit;

presenting the attribute information, stored in the storing unit, to an arbitrary terminal device on the second network in accordance with a protocol which depends upon the second network;

requesting that the server on the first network provide the service, chosen on the basis of the presented attribute information;

and, providing the service to the terminal device on the second network which has requested the service.

[Claim 2] A communications device connected to a first network and a second network in order to provide a service from a server on the first network to a terminal device on the second network, said communications device comprising:

a first storing unit operable to store attribute information which is collected from the server on the first network, and includes the service which the server provides;

a presentation unit operable to present the attribute information stored by said first storing unit to an arbitrary terminal device on the second network, in accordance with the protocol which depends upon the second network; and

a service provision unit operable to request the server on the 1st network to provide the service provision selected on the basis of the attribute information presented by said presentation unit, and provide the service to the terminal device that made the request for the service on said second network.

[Claim 3] The communications device according to Claim 2,

wherein said service provision unit is operable, upon receiving a request from the terminal device on the second network for provision of the service chosen on the basis of attribute information presented in said presentation unit according to the protocol dependent upon the second network, and to send the request to the server on the first network, on the basis of the attribute information of the server that provides the service stored in the storing unit.

[Claim 4] The communications device according to Claim 2, comprising

a second storing unit operable to store a necessary conversion process and a compatibility relationship of the service provided from the server on the first network

and the contents related to the service provision when transmitting to the terminal device on the second network,

wherein said service provision unit is operable to transmit a content relating to the service provision, in accordance with the protocol that depends on the second network, to the terminal device that originated the service request once the content is received from the server which provides the content on the first network, in accordance with the protocol that depends on the first network, and a transformation process derived from the compatibility information stored by said second storing unit has been administered to the contents.

[Claim 5] The communications device according to Claim 2, comprising

a third storing unit operable to store in advance access information necessary when accessing the server on the first network.

[Claim 6] The communications device according to Claim 2,

wherein said presentation unit is operable to present, from among the collected attribute information, only attribute information related to a service available to the terminal device on the second network.